

From WARVONARN@aol.com

Sent Wednesday, October 13, 2010 10:49 am

To hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov

Subject re:Testimony-Opposition to Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale Sanctuary Expansion

I am **opposed** to any boundary expansion of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and the inclusion of other species within this sanctuary.

I regard the original sanctuary as a political ploy, brought on by conservationists, and funded by big environmentalist organizations, who in turn back political officials. I see no scientific reasoning in their planning of this sanctuary.

As for the humpback whales, where is the scientific reason for why they need a sanctuary. They are only here for a short time to spawn, and then they are going back to the north pacific where they really in danger. In hawaiian waters they are not bothered by the local fishermen, and each goes about doing their own thing. I see no problems with both being in the same waters, at the same time. Have you heard of any whale being harmed by local fishermen?

Conservationists are always having whale counts during the spawning seasons, and when the count goes down, the first thing they come up with is this expansion of the sanctuary. They had better look at the true reasons for the decline. The original reason was the mass slaughtering of whales in the old days. There is still whale fishing in the northern pacific by Eskimos and foreign fishermen to this day. Then came the seine fishermen which caused whales to get tangled up in their netting, and also depleted the amount of other species which normally traveled into hawaiian waters. Other causes are injuries that occur in collisions with large vessels, freighters and liners traveling throughout the Pacific Ocean.

Next you included the dolphins, another species that is not on the list for local fishermen. Dolphins (Porpoises) are smart creatures. They don't get hooked the fishing lures, they don't run into propellers, and they actually enjoy racing with the fishing boats. Their danger also comes from the seine fishermen.

Then you put the so-called Hawaiian Monk Seal into this Sanctuary. Where is the history of this seal ever being a animal indigent to the Hawaiian Islands. In my youth, there were no mention of monk seals. This animal was introduced to the Main Hawaiian Islands, and if they are not fairing right, it is because the environment here is not what they are accustomed to. Actually, the seal is more harmful to the fisherman, especially the divers, when encountered. In this case, the human species has no protection from the aggressive seals. The seals should be back in the Caribbean, where they originated.

Now you want to add other species to this expanded sanctuary, and what scares me is that you leave the door open to add anything, at any time. I believe that any additions that you try to include into this so-called sanctuary, better have a good scientific reasoning behind it, and that each reasoning is verified. I see too many regulations being adopted without any scientific documentation, and only being implemented because some party wants it that way.

The way the government is working, they are padding their committees with environmentalists and conservationists. Where are the people from the fishing industry? The poor fishermen are left out of the picture. I believe the fishermen should have a sanctuary where their species came fish, where fish can be found in local waters, and not have to travel to far off sites to do so. I believe that the local fisherman has a right to the Hawaiian waters for fishing, as it was in olden days. Tell the conservationists to go to Alaska and tell the Eskimos not to fish for whales, and see how far they will get with that.

Warren Von Arnswaldt
Part-Hawaiian local fishermen

e-mail : warvonarn@aol.com